

March 2008

## **You Could Be Nebraska's Teacher of the Year for 2009!**

Application forms for the 2009 Nebraska Teacher of the Year are available through your superintendent or principal or by calling one of the persons listed below. Applications must be completed and postmarked **by midnight, August 15, 2008**. A selection panel will review the applications, and the four or five teachers receiving the highest scores will be advanced. Finalists will be interviewed during October, and the Teacher of the Year will be selected from those finalists. An awards luncheon will be held in November.

Begun in 1972, the Nebraska Teacher of the Year program recognizes outstanding Nebraska certified teachers who teach in a pre-Kindergarten through Grade 12 classroom setting, and who plan to continue in an active teacher status in a state-approved or accredited school. Three letters of support must accompany the application. Questions on the application seek information on educational background and personal development, community involvement, and philosophy of teaching and the teaching profession from the viewpoint of the applicant.

Candidates should be:

- exceptionally dedicated
- knowledgeable/skilled
- respected/admired by parents, students, and peers
- active in the community in which they teach
- poised, articulate, and energetic
- able to inspire students of all backgrounds and abilities.

The Nebraska State Education Association, Nebraska Council of School Administrators, Nebraska Association of School Boards, and corporate partner Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Nebraska will award a stipend to the Nebraska Teacher of the Year. Each of the remaining four finalists will be awarded a stipend from sponsoring corporate friends and education associations. The Nebraska State Board of Education will provide a \$1,000 grant to the Awards of Excellence winners and the Teacher of the Year to be used for a project of the teacher's choice in his/her school. Additionally, the Nebraska State Education Association, Nebraska Association of School Boards, Nebraska Council of School Administrators, Nebraska PTA, Dillard's - Westfield Shopping Town, SMARTer Kids Foundation, and Nebraska Department of Education will present gifts, mementoes, and awards to the persons recognized.

**If you have need for additional information, please call (402) 471-5059.**

Nebraska Teacher of the Year Coordinator  
Lora Sypal (402) 471-5059